



## **STEWARDSHIP DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM**

The *Stewardship Development Program*, established by the SC Department of Natural Resources, recognizes development projects in the state that demonstrate a commitment to maintaining & improving natural resources on developed lands.

The Stewardship Development Award honors projects that have gone well beyond the accepted norm in many ways. The department considers this to be an elite honor and has set very strict standards for its attainment. The designers and developers of these projects have carefully considered the local ecosystem in the planning and implementation of their developments, and have taken steps to incorporate these ideals in the long term management of the land.

Each project undergoes a detailed site inspection by members of the Stewardship Development review team before the decision to honor a project is made. A developer or project manager may also request a pre-application site visit, in order to get an opinion about the project's chances of receiving the award.

Stewardship Development sites are selected in three categories: (1) Residential (2) Commercial and (3) Community (schools, hospitals, parks, etc.).

**Requirements:**

1. The project must be located in South Carolina.
2. Project must be sufficiently mature to determine compliance with criteria.
3. Project must be in compliance with all applicable local, state, and federal regulations.
4. Developer/Owner must allow a SC Department of Natural Resources (DNR) team to visit the site and provide any additional information as requested for evaluating project.
5. Project is subject to periodic review evaluations by DNR.
6. DNR, at its sole discretion, reserves the right to revoke recognition for failure to comply with program requirements or criteria.

**Criteria:**

Applications will be judged on the overall creativity, design, and environmental impacts of projects. Primary emphasis is placed on the following criteria:

**Wildlife Habitat Protection/Improvement**

- Protection/Enhancement/Restoration of native plant and animal communities.
- Biodiversity protection.
- Wildlife management efforts.

**Water Quality Protection**

- Erosion control, sediment reduction and stormwater management design and maintenance.
- Protection and/or enhancement of wetlands.
- Surface and groundwater protection.
- Nonpoint source pollution control measures.

**Selection and Site Plan**

- Natural site suitability in terms of soils, drainage, topography, etc., or modification of site to mitigate environmental problems.
- Efficient use of available natural resources.
- Choice of construction and building materials and methods.
- Energy conservation.

**Greenspace Protection**

- Protection of open spaces to provide for wildlife habitat and recreational opportunities.
- Floodplain and wetland preservation, enhancement, and/or restoration.

**Scenic View Protection/Beautification**

- Integration of development with the natural landscape.
- Protection or re-establishment of native trees, shrubs and other vegetation.
- Landscaping for developed and disturbed areas.

**Historic/Archeological/Cultural Protection**

- Innovative solutions to protect and enhance historical, archeological, and cultural resources on site.

**Re-Use/Revitalization of Existing Site**

- Creative re-use of existing site.
- Innovative approach to revitalization of an existing site or facility.

**Community Involvement**

- Local community backing for this project.
- Public awareness.
- Local benefit from this project.

**Public Education (Formal/Informal)**

- Efforts to enlighten public about natural features and/or processes on the site.
- Efforts to enlighten public about cultural features on the site.

**Project Management Plan**

- Dedication to implementing long-term resource protection and enhancement objectives.

*Stewardship Development* honorees receive promotion through:

- 1) Competition in awards program.
- 2) Exposure through DNR news releases and related literature.
- 3) Awards ceremony.
- 4) Display of DNR approved *Stewardship Development* signage on site.
- 5) Use of DNR's *Stewardship Development* logo for promotion of the site or project.
- 6) Web link from DNR's website to project website.

**Application Form**  
*Stewardship Development Program*

Please complete the following:

Name of Project \_\_\_\_\_

Location \_\_\_\_\_

Developer/Owner \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Person \_\_\_\_\_

Relation to project \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Please check the choice(s) that best describe the type of project/development:

Commercial/Industrial \_\_\_\_\_ General/Other \_\_\_\_\_

Residential \_\_\_\_\_ Public \_\_\_\_\_

Beginning Date of Construction: \_\_\_\_\_

Completion Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Please provide the following information on additional sheets:

1. **Project Description:** Attach a description of project, including, if you desire, slides, B&W or color photos or video
2. **Site Plan:** Submit a detailed scaled site plan, including all existing and proposed land alteration, infrastructure, and building types. Designate such areas as wetlands, wildlife corridors/natural areas, floodplain boundaries, historical sites, etc. Include a location map of the project vicinity with travel directions.
3. **Management Plan:** Explain how the integrity of the project's design and use will be assured over time.
4. **Selection Criteria:** Respond to criteria 1–10. You may supplement with photos, slides, diagrams, etc. All categories must be addressed. If a category is not applicable, please indicate so and explain, if necessary.

Applications Accepted Any Time, Review conducted after August 31, annually. Successful projects announced December 1.